

# The World

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## CAB REFORM PROSPECTS.

Very definite progress was made yesterday in the public movement against the pirate cabman by the institution of a test case against a driver accused of overcharging a passenger in Central Park. This suit will be carried into the higher courts for a decision of sufficient judicial gravity to serve as a precedent for all future cases of similar nature and to establish a basis for the further interpretation of the cab-fare ordinances in their details.

This is hopeful and encouraging. But is it not singular, to denominate it by no stronger term, that a judicial interpretation of the ordinances should be sought now for the first time at this late day and that it should be sought on the initiative of a newspaper?

The abuses complained of and now about to be thoroughly probed for a remedy are of long standing. They have been burdensome enough to citizens. They have cost most heavily on the hundreds of thousands of daily visitors, whose ignorance of the cab and carriage tariff has rendered them the ready victims of very gross overcharge.

That this extortion is now at last to be ended once for all is as much to the credit of the authorities as its long-continued tolerance was to their discredit.

## OPIUM AND EDUCATION.

Is it odd to think of a nation which intervened in the Philippines because of the most enlightened Christian motives establishing a monopoly for the sale of opium? Does it seem inconsistent with the elevated principles which led to our "benevolent assimilation" of the islands that the United States should in any way countenance traffic in this stupefying drug? Perhaps. But it must be borne in mind that we are sanctioning its sale only to the Chinese, whom we have no national mission to elevate.

But a question of very immediate importance is involved in the expressed intention of the Government to use the royalty derived from the sale of this privilege of monopoly to educate Filipino youths in the United States.

It is the best use to which the royalty could be put. But money so derived is clearly within the meaning of the word "tainted" as applied by Bishop Burgess to funds of immoral origin given to churches and colleges. Is the "taint" any less because the funds are handled by the Government and the immoral source approved by the high civilizing agencies which we have set at work to elevate our benighted proteges?

It is a question for much hair splitting, rivaling in twinedum-tweedledee possibilities our local excise problem.

## THE DIAMOND IMPORTATIONS.

The importation of diamonds and other precious stones to the value of \$2,422,000 during the month of May alone furnishes an additional index of prosperity, if one were needed.

The amount seems enormous, yet is the supply equal to the demand? It may not be exactly true that "a millionaire is born every minute," but it is certainly susceptible of proof that the crop was never so large as now. According to good authority, the formation of the United States Steel Corporation in itself created a batch of 100 new Pittsburgh millionaires. For one year's harvest in a single city this was doubtless unexampled. But the nation's annual crop is probably even greater. And the purchase of diamonds is one of the first and most regular uses to which newly made millions are put.

Diamonds have advanced in price 100 per cent. within twenty years; pearls nearly 500. With the latter an increasing scarcity may be alleged as the cause. Diamonds remain dear because of the artificial restriction of product by the Diamond Trust. What a necklace will cost a Fifth Avenue purchaser now or next year depends entirely on what the head of the trust in London thinks it ought to cost her.

Seemingly fewer diamonds are now seen on feminine fingers and more on the throat, in the hair, on the corse. The change of fashion is one to gratify good taste. The sight of fair fingers heavily armored with rings is not pleasing. Apart from the suggestion of barbaric adornment conveyed, the rings spoil the appearance of a symmetrical hand.

## AGE COULD NOT WITHER.

A Leander of eighty-nine, J. A. Soard, swam a Missouri Hellespont, to wit, the swollen Platte River, a few days ago to reach the side of his bride of six weeks. In Salt Lake City, Jonathan Lefevre, ninety-one, is about to marry his ninth wife.

In Brooklyn, before the Supreme Court, a contest of the will of Paul S. Brown has been begun, in which the allegation is made that when Mr. Brown married young Augusta Andre at the age of ninety in 1901 he was of unsound mind.

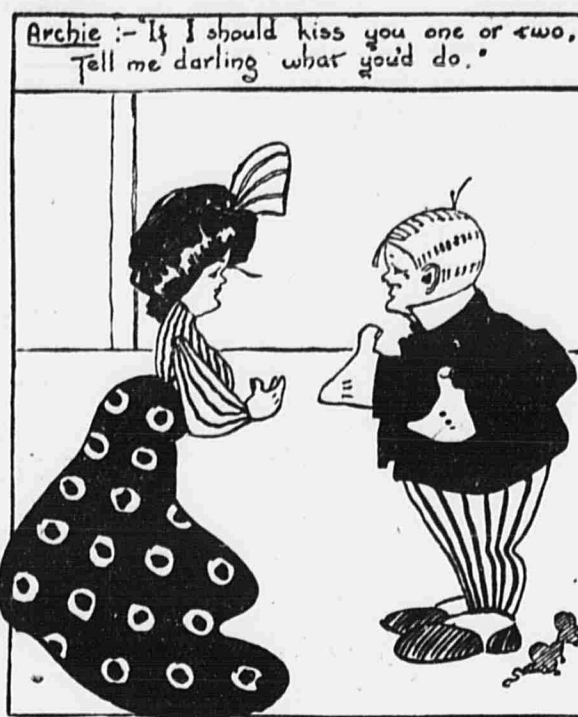
Three old men admirable whom age could not wither. Lively each as a young colt at a time of life when for most of their sex the lean and slippered pantaloons are long overdue.

Undoubtedly of the three the Missouri Leander interests us most. In our mind's eye we can discern the aged swimmer, buffeted and beaten back, he makes slow progress against the billows of the raging Platte. We can hear him, as his heart grows faint with the unequal struggle, crying out to heaven with the original Leander: "Spare me on my way; drown me on my return." And the god of love has heard his prayer and helped him to where his bride lay, "fairer than a thousand stars."

An inspiring deed was this, a graybeard putting to shame the cheap gallantry of a thousand younger but hesitant sparks. Let us hope that his Hero is worthy of him and that she appreciates how much kinder Venus has been to her than to her namesake of old.

Dead and Bodies.—It seems odd to hear of a college president pleading that the weak should be permitted to live as well as the strong. This was the burden of the address of President Faunce, of Brown, to the Yale students. Is there any argument on the question? If the Romans had "crushed the weak" they would have had no Cicero. If the English of Anne's reign had destroyed the deformed there would have been no Alexander Pope. It has not yet been proved that the possession of physical strength adds readiness to the intellect.

# ARDENT ARCHIE, ALIDA AND THE RAT COMBINE TO FOOL PAPA.



## TOLD ABOUT NEW YORKERS.

ONE of the valued possessions of the late Stuart Robson was a collection of scraps of books compiled by the comedian with great care. They did not contain press clippings, either. Mr. Robson was a radical thinker and he neglected no opportunity to point out what he considered the unworthiness of persons whose opinions on life did not coincide with his. He cut out all the reports of such persons' misdeeds as appeared in the newspapers, and for a number of years he added these clippings assiduously to his collection. The scrap books increased so much in bulk at last that he was compelled to give up the task. But he was always proud of the monument that he had raised to his opinions.

Adelina Patti says she is a New Yorker. "I can first picture myself as a tiny girl, very, very pale and very, very black eyes, running down Broadway trundling a hoop," she said recently to a Gotham friend. "Oh, the pride and fervor I put into my task! Whatever I did I did with my whole heart, and that has been the secret of my success in life."

Wilton Lackaye, who has come to be known as a sort of heavy-weight Willie Collier through the aptness and originality characterizing his conversation, was touring the South some seasons ago in the play with which he tried to follow his Svengali success. It was called "Dr. Belgraff" and dealt in a melodramatic way with the power of hypnotism, but was not sufficiently potent in this respect to attract very large audiences. In an Alabama town a climax was reached when the local manager dropped back to the star's dressing-room to tell him that it was the most fashionable audience he had ever seen in the theatre. The audience, numerically speaking, was about eight strong, and Lackaye was heard to whisper that he did not care if they were coal heavers if the house had only been filled. However, he would have his joke at any expense, and during the next scene, in which Dr. Belgraff is alone in his office, the veteran Joseph Allen entered, and reading his introductory line, looked at Lackaye and inquired: "Are we alone?"

Lackaye, with one quick glance at the entire audience, nodded his head and replied: "Yes, comparatively alone."

Clyde Fitch is apparently in good spirits. A week ago he sent a postal card to Manager Dillingham in New York bearing a photograph of himself and his favorite spaniel. The scribbling on the card reads as follows: "Dear C. B. D.—I finished the play to-day! Picture of the guilty author and the dog it's being tried on. Notice satisfied expression of the dog—the small one. Yours truly, Clyde Fitch."

## LETTERS, QUESTIONS, ANSWERS.

**A Mourning Query.**  
To the Editor of The Evening World:  
Is it proper to wear a derby or can I wear a straw hat when in mourning?

ANSWER.—A straw hat with a black ribbon may be worn in mourning.

**Another View on "Mashers."**

To the Editor of The Evening World:  
Allow us girls from the Eastern District of Brooklyn to put in a plea in behalf of the "masher" (so-called) by a lot of unsympathetic people. To be a masher one must needs be a neat and respectable-looking person, also clever and sociable, agreeable and also generous; must know the proper time to invite a girl to partake of refreshments and make presents, &c. Perhaps I may speak for some of the girls of the Eastern District and say that as persons driven out of one land are welcomed in another, so when the straight-laced people from New York and other parts of Brooklyn over to the quiet and shade of the Eastern District and be received cordially by many of us, at least. As for the Anti-Mashers' League, let the members thereof beware. Many nice girls of the Eastern District are not in accord with the Anti-Mashers' League. Not by a jugful!

WILLIAMSBURG GIRL.

**Would Check Growth.**

To the Editor of The Evening World:  
Please tell me how to stop growing.

ANSWER.—There is no harmless method of checking the growth.

## NOW LOOK OUT FOR THE WEIRDEST TRUST OF ALL!

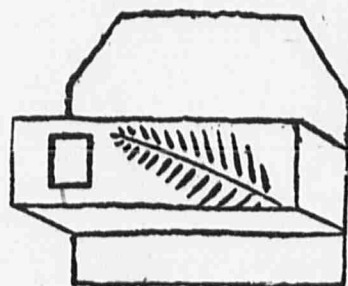


Long Island farmers are forming a Cauliflower Trust, to be capitalized at \$10,000.

The once-humble cauliflower is the blossom of the hour, And gardenias and orchids must take a rearward seat. While the culinary power of that self-same cauliflower Has got terrapin and truffles ignominiously beat.

## HOME FUN FOR THE YOUNG FOLKS.

### LETTER HOLDER.



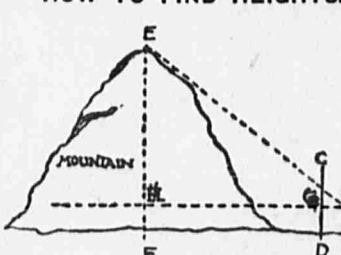
From the square piece of packing paper taken from around a bottle, cut down through the middle of one side. Line with silk. Then bend it so that the two pieces of the side rest upon a piece of pasteboard, which has previously been lined, cut it out the size for a back to the letter-holder.

### "WHO CAN HE BE?"

The game "Who can he be?" is instructive and also helps to refresh the memory. One of the party selects a historical personage without naming him and relates an anecdote or anything that is interesting about him and names the country in which he lived. The player who guesses the name, having previously the privilege of asking one question, gives a description of another character, and so the game progresses. Here is an example:

"There was a celebrated Swiss, a famous archer, a champion of liberty, who was the first to strike a blow for freedom. He refused to bow to the Austrian Governor's hat, that had been placed on a pole that all should do homage to it, and as a punishment for his disobedience he was ordered to shoot an arrow at an apple placed on his son's head or else the son should be put to immediate death before his sight. With horror at the fearful alternative he at first refused, begging that vengeance might fall on him only, but his son assured him that he did not fear the result and begged him to make the trial. He yielded to his persuasions, took aim, drew his bow and struck the apple without injuring his son. Who was he?"

### HOW TO FIND HEIGHTS.



The height of an edifice or of a mountain may be computed without any instruments, the only condition necessary being the power to approach the base. A foot-rule and two sticks will suffice. Suppose the height of the tower EF be the distance to be taken. At some distance from the base we plant a rod AB about a yard high, and about a yard away we place another stick, somewhat higher, CD. We must now measure the distance BF. Applying the eye to A we will look to the summit of the tower E. Upon the stick CD we will mark the spot where our visual ray cuts this stick, G representing that point. Then, by measuring the distance DG and subtracting the height of AB we shall have GF. We can now conclude the problem with ease with the following proportion:

## Some of the Best Jokes of the Day.

### WORTH THE PRICE.

The bore had his feet on the cable and was smoking one of the lawyer's good cigars while he discussed various subjects of no particular interest. "I have heard it said," remarked the lawyer, "that if you loan a man money you make an enemy of him for life." "Shouldn't wonder," returned the bore. "That he will avoid you ever afterward." "That's the way it usually works, I believe." The lawyer produced his pocketbook. "I couldn't get you to accept a loan of \$5, could I?" he asked. But the bore, being a bore, never saw the point, and thus the brilliant scheme went for naught.—Chicago Post.

### WORST OF IDIOTS.

"Did you say he was arrested for making an incendiary speech at the opera-house?" "Yes." "The idea! I didn't know he was an Anarchist." "I didn't say he was; he simply yelled 'Fire!'"—Philadelphia Press.

### BRIGHT SCHEME.

Parson-Brother, how can we prevent every one from donating coppers? Deacon—Oh, I have a good scheme. We'll take up the collection with a cash register.—Chicago News.

## THE FAREWELLS OF WIVES.

How They Speed Husbands on Business Journeys in the Grand Central Station.

"A H. sweetheart, you're going to leave me," she wailed and clung to an arm of a big blond man, who had in a huge bag and a bulging suitcase a sufficient load without the added weight of the woman and her melancholy wail. His jaws shut quickly, his pink cheeks took a darker hue. "No, no, Tot," he said softly, yet impatiently. "Why will you say that? I'll be back in four days." "Four days?" she said tragically, as one might say, with full comprehension of its extent. "Eternity!" "Four days! And I shall cry every minute of the time." "Why, Tot, how foolish! Don't take on so. I wouldn't go if I didn't just have to. Try to smile, little one. I'll be back just as soon as I can." "You don't care. You're going to leave me for four whole days, and you don't care." She was immersed in her sorrow, hiding her face against the arm that held the bulging suitcase. "All aboard!" shouted the train starter. "All aboard for R-r-r and R-r-r-Chicago!" "There's my train, Tot," said the big blond man. He kissed her frantically and hurried away. Tears were in his eyes, and she—she sank upon a waiting-room seat, shaking with sobs.

"I'll be back by the first," said the thin, dark man, taking his umbrella from a lady's hand. "Law! but that grip out a hole in my hand." "It's very heavy," she said. "I hope you've got everything you need. Take good care of yourself and don't worry about me." "I'll take good care of myself, but I'd be better satisfied if you were going." "That's a dear! but never mind. If you took me you couldn't give more than half your mind to business. I'll be all right. Brother George will see to me." "Oh, you're safe enough. Good-by, sweetheart. I'll write from Denver. George has got all my addresses if you need me." She kissed him daintily, smiled after him as he hurried through the gate, waited till he had boarded his car, waved her hand and then, very sad, walked out of the station.

## BRIDAL SUPERSTITIONS.

Never, in rehearsing the ceremony, read the marriage service entirely over. A bride should use no pins in her wedding clothes. There is an old superstition against May marriages. Dec. 31 is a favorite day in Scotland. A bride must wear nothing green. That color is emblematic of evil. To change the name and not the letter is color for the worse and not for better. The origin of slipper throwing is not known. It means, however, good luck. In Yorkshire, England, the cook used to pour hot coffee over the doorstep after the couple had gone, to keep the threshold warm for another bride. It is said "Blessed is the bride on whom the sun shines."

## ON THE EVENING WORLD PEDESTAL.



Children! See on our Pedestal The worthy MISTER Reeves! That doughty corporation wight, Who's swatting one good swat for right By joining in the hard-fought fight To bring the cabmen's sins to light And grant them no reprieve.